



733 Valley Street
Hoover, AL 35226
205.822.0910

BLUFF PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Newsletter, September 30, 2013

www.bluffparkumc.org

ENOUGH

Dear Members of the Bluff Park United Methodist Church:

On Sunday, October 27, we will ask our members to return their 2014 estimate of giving cards as we make plans for our ministry for the coming year. It will be an inspiring day of worship and we hope you will be here as we make our commitment for next year. We thank you for your continued support of the ministry of Bluff Park.

I want to remind you why we ask our members to turn in estimate of giving cards each year, and to offer a specific invitation to you.

On a very practical level, we ask you to turn in an estimate of giving card (to be mailed to you in the next few weeks) so that our Finance Committee is able to set an accurate ministry budget for the coming year, making the most of every gift. On a personal level, the return of the estimate of giving card invites you to spend time in prayer and reflection, considering what your offerings should be for the coming year. Please look at what your expected income is going to be in the coming year and revise your giving based upon that figure. Giving the first 10 percent of your income to the church is a tithe. Other offerings to the church and to various charities and mission projects should be in addition to your tithe.

You may already practice tithing; giving 10 percent. If you do, I want to commend you. If you are not yet tithing, I'd like to invite you to consider taking a step toward tithing this year. Take a look at your current giving, determine what percentage of your income you are currently giving as an offering to God, and consider raising that amount by at least 1 percentage point. This is how most people begin to tithe; by gradually increasing their giving until they hit the goal.

We are grateful for your financial support of the church. Your giving this year has made a difference in the lives of children, youth, and adults in our church. Bluff Park UMC has been involved in the lives of people throughout the world through our missions and ministry.

A "Giving Guide" on the back of the commitment card can help you as you consider your commitment for 2014. Please pray about your giving, and take a moment to reflect upon what offering you would make to God through our church in the coming year. Then bring the card with you to worship on the 27th of October. You can also pledge by calling Ben or Joe in the Church Office.

Again, thank you for your support of God's work here at Bluff Park United Methodist Church.

In Christ,

John Whitcomb, Stewardship Chairman



This Sunday we will have a **Blessing of the Animals** at 3pm in the parking lot by the playground. Bring your pet or even a picture of your pet and we will say a prayer of blessing over them.

There will also be a **petting zoo**, so even if you don't have a pet, come appreciate God's creation with us.

Did You Know...



1 Cake sold at the Art Show will provide groceries for 3 PANTRY FAMILIES



2 dozen Cookies will provide a lunch and entertainment for 20 'Seniors' at United Community Center

Please help with these projects
By BAKING for the

October 5th

BLUFF PARK ART SHOW



1 batch of Brownies will feed 3 Homeless Friends at UNDER THE BRIDGE



12 Cupcakes will provide housing for 1 night for a Friend at FIRST LIGHT

Please bring baked goods to the Fellowship Hall on Friday, Oct 4, Noon-6PM

Sympathy of the congregation is extended to Bob Moore in the death of his wife, Brenda on September 22. Our prayers are with the family in their time of sorrow.

Congratulations to Anne and Matt Shuleva on the birth of a 7 lb. 12 oz. daughter, Anne Denby on September 22 .

We **need new head ushers** for both the early and late services. Head ushers help recruit and organize a team of 9 to serve during a worship service. Contact Steve Lawson (425-4916) for more information.

Many members of Bluff Park UMC have worked very hard to make the **Promise Home** a reality. In order to express our appreciation for their efforts there will be a Banquet of Thanks on Tuesday evening October 22nd at 6 PM. The banquet will be held in the Fellowship Hall. We will enjoy a nice meal and fellowship time together. There will also be entertainment provided by our own Leigh Delashaw and Bart Styes. The Banquet of Thanks is open to anyone who helped on the Promise Home in any way. However, we must have reservations in order to know how many meals to prepare. Please make your reservations by phone or by email through Cindy Myers in the church office.

Counseling: We have a new counselor in the Counseling Office at Bluff Park UMC. Daniel Seigel will join Steve Sweatt and will offer counseling for couples, families and individuals. Whether it is stress or anxiety or issues with communication or even issues in your work or career, Daniel is a wonderful person to help you manage and heal. Daniel is the grandson of members of Bluff Park UMC and is also an accomplished opera singer. Please contact United Counseling at (205) 824-8320 to schedule an appointment with either Dan or Steve here at the church's Counseling Office (www.unitedcounseling.org).

Bluff Park UMC is blessed to have many generous members. One such member was Mrs. Huber whose estate will support missions and ministries at BPUMC for years to come! Mrs. Huber also left her home to the church and we recently sold that house. The proceeds of the home will be used for various ministries and missions of the church. Thank you to everyone who helped, including Geoff Huddleston, Bob Walker, Joan Dunn, Bill Garwick, Alex Tucker, J.B. Thrasher, Benny Vinson, Marvin Broome, Steve Copper, John and Debi Whitcomb, and many more!

The Firehouse Shelter will be having its annual **5-Alarm Gala** on **Thursday, November 7** at the B & A Warehouse. The shelter's main fundraiser will include numerous basket raffles, hors d'oeuvres, music and more. Tickets are only \$50.00 per person (corporate tables also available). Ninety-three cents of every dollar donated to the Firehouse goes directly to services actually serving Birmingham's homeless. The Firehouse Shelter is Birmingham's only step-by-step network of resources for the homeless and provides short and long term housing options, street outreach programs, counseling, medical referrals and educational programs for the community. The Shelter also provides 450 meals a day and houses more than 175 men each night. To order tickets, to contribute a gift basket for the raffle or for more information, please contact Kyle Puchta at (205) 481-3790 or ath-cup@bellsouth.net

The Effect of VIM Work: In early September government inspectors came to El Vergel to look at physical conditions for the students living at the school. The results came in during my stay there this week. Rosanna, the school principal, was excited to share that the school got high marks from the inspection team and she attributed the good results directly to the efforts of United Methodist congregations supporting El Vergel. Last year UM churches in Virginia shipped 150 new mattresses, a significant upgrade from what had been there before. And our BPUMC 2012 VIM work crew, especially Elizabeth Davis, worked to repaint much of the common areas of the girls' dorm, and it still looks pristine.

Thanks to our 2013 VIM work team efforts, the hostel is very close to receiving a favorable inspection result, because staples are now being stored in the separate pantry area built by our team. Samuel, director of El Vergel farm and school, is especially grateful for the funds you just sent for septic system repairs. One of El Vergel's next projects is replacing windows in the boys' dorm, and our missionary John Elmore will soon tell us specifics on how we might help. In summary, our prayers, funds, and relationship-building are making a difference. Could 2014 be the year that you feel the call to join the VIM team? Leonette Slay

Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity

Stress, Anxiety, Fear: These words capture well the state of mind of many of us in America today. A recent survey found that over three in four Americans are stressed about the economy and their personal finances. Half were worried about providing for their family's basic needs. Over half of respondents reported feeling angry and irritable, and reported lying awake at night worried about this. The report concludes that, "The declining state of the nation's economy is taking a physical and emotional toll on people nationwide."¹

Join us in worship this October for a sermon series entitled *Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity*. Over the course of four weeks, we will explore what the Bible teaches us about financial management through corporate worship and small group study. Each week we will provide you with some practical tools you can use to assess your financial situation and develop a financial plan with a biblical foundation.

At the conclusion of the series, we will have the opportunity to make personal commitments of our offerings to God through our church in the coming year. We will consecrate these commitments in the worship service on Sunday, October 27th during both morning worship services.

I hope you will join us in the coming weeks as we look at how we can manage our financial resources and truly experience simplicity, generosity, and joy.

Mike

Schedule of Events:

October 6	Enough: Waste	Luke 15:11-16
October 13	Enough: Contentment	Matthew 12:13-21
October 20	Enough: Generosity	Matthew 25:31-46
October 27	Enough: Praise	1 Chronicles 16:28-36 Consecration Sunday

CHILDREN'S NEWS

ELEMENTARY SUNDAY SCHOOL Bible verse for the month is..."Each one, as a good manager of God's different gifts, must use for the good of others the special gift he or she has received from God." 1 Peter 4:10 Ask your elementary kids to memorize this and ask them what it means to them. To take it one step farther, discuss it what it means to you with them.

TO THE NEW HORIZONS SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS Thank you for taking on the responsibility of teaching the elementary Sunday school unit on God's gifts. It's going to be a fun month as we learn about what our gifts are and how to use them for the glory of God's kingdom!

THE HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL is Wednesday Oct. 30, 6-8p.m. The entire church family and community are encouraged to participate. This is a fund raiser for the Preschool, Children's ministry, Youth Ministry and the Shepherd's Center. Costumes are encouraged. There will be games, food, a cake walk, and a Haunted House. For young children there will be a Creepy Crawler Tunnel. All adult Sunday School classes are asked to participate.



CHILDREN'S COUNCIL We will meet on Oct. 27, at 4:30p.m. in the New Light Classroom.

STUDENT MINISTRY

There are FIVE unique environments in which we hope to engage students and equip them as disciples: "reach" events, Sunday School, worship, missions/service and small groups. Our FALL 2013 small groups started up last week, discipling their students in ways that just don't happen in a larger group setting. Small groups dig into issues affecting their members, make memories together and small group leaders model what it looks like to follow Jesus, while coaching their students to do the same. It's not too late to join a group. Check the schedule below for the one that's right for you.

Thank you to every parent who has signed up to help as a volunteer this fall. We still have several needs, including Sunday School teachers, event chaperons and small group leaders. To learn more, contact Bart at 205-790-1803 or barts@bpumc.org.

Wednesday, October 2, 5:30pm: MS Small Groups

Wednesday, October 2, 6:30pm: Holy Ground Worship in the Youth Wing

Sunday, October 6, 9:30am: Holy Ground Team Leads Worship at Church of the Reconciler

Sunday, October 6, 10:00am: Sunday School in the Youth Wing

Sunday, October 6, 4:00pm: Holy Ground Team Rehearsal

Sunday, October 6, 4:30pm: HS Guys Small Group

Sunday, October 6, 5:30pm: Free Snack Supper in the Fellowship Hall

Sunday, October 6, 6:00pm: Zombies vs. Humans Game

Sunday, October 6, 6:00pm: HS Girls Small Group

Wednesday, October 9, 5:30pm: MS Small Groups

Wednesday, October 9, 6:30pm: Holy Ground Worship in the Youth Wing

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

BRIDGE and LUNCH: With Barbara Morgan, **each Thursday** at 11:00 a.m. Beginners and advanced

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 9: **COOKING CLASS**—Rosemary Dallam – Fireside Room 6-7 pm

THURSDAY, OCT. 10: **SHEPHERD CENTER** - Karen Haiflich—update Medicare/Medicaid

TUESDAY, OCT. 15: **MYSTERY TRIP ??????????????**

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 16: **COOKING CLASS** with Charlotte McCrary and friends 6-7 Fireside Room

THURSDAY, OCT. 17: **SHEPHERD CENTER FLU SHOTS** 9:00-10:00 in the gym

SUNDAY, OCT. 20: **CHURCH FLU SHOTS** 8:30-12:30 in the gym—bring insurance information

FRIDAY, OCT. 25-SUNDAY, OCT. 27: Beach Trip Cost \$175 pp 2 room available.

CHRISTMAS TRIP

Sevierville, Pigeon Forge, Gatlinburg—December 4th-7th. \$375 per person/double

Christmas lights/ shopping/shows, Christmas on the Titanic, and Christ in the Smokies Museum.

\$100 deposit ASAP—balance due November 1 - 5 rooms available!

Special Moment with Jesus!

Cast your burden on the LORD, And He shall sustain you; He shall never permit the righteous to be moved.

Psalm 55:22

Bluff Park United Methodist Church

733 Valley Street
Hoover, AL 35226

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
AUTO
BIRMINGHAM, AL
PERMIT NO. 1816

Pastors

Mike Holly, mholly@bpumc.org, ext. 104
Peter von Herrmann, pvonherrmann@bpumc.org, ext. 105
Tom Duley, tduley@bpumc.org, ext. 112

Dir. of Seniors, ext. 103

Betty Hottenstein, bhottenstein@bpumc.org

Director of Student Ministries, ext. 118

Bart Styes, barts@bpumc.org

Dir. of Children, ext. 107

Leigh Delashaw, ldelashaw@bpumc.org

Director of Finance and Administration, ext. 117

Ben Sheets, bsheets@bpumc.org

Financial Manager, ext. 101

Joe Pitard, jpitard@bpumc.org

Secretary, ext. 111

Cindy Myers, cmyers@bpumc.org

Director of Chancel Choir and Special Programs,

Lonnie Parsons

Organist, Jamie Davis

Preschool Director

Tracy Estes, imaginations@bpumc.org



The Week of September 29-October 5

Sunday, September 29

7:30 a.m. Blood Drive
8:45 a.m. Morning Worship Service
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Morning Worship Service
4:30 p.m. Children's Council
6:00 p.m. Evening Worship

Monday, September 30

Tuesday, October 1

9:30 a.m. Bible Study

Wednesday, October 2

4:30 p.m. Pastor's Bible Study
5:00 p.m. Dinner
6:00 p.m. Men's Chorus
6:00 p.m. Becky Walker's Bible Study

Wednesday, October 2

6:00 p.m. Genealogy
6:00 p.m. Mike Holly's Bible Study
6:00 p.m. Cooking Class
6:30 p.m. Coffee and Conversation
6:30 p.m. Adult Choir

Thursday, October 3

9:00 a.m. Shepherd's Center

Friday, October 4

12:00 Baked Goods for Art Show

Ushers

8:45: Doran 11:00: Arthur

Cross

8:45: Clayton Marshall 11:00: Olivia Woodruff

Acolytes

8:45: Caroline Owen 11:00: Vasi Tsantes

Children's Church

8:45: Poe 11:00: Williamson

Greeters September 29: Wesley Forum

Meals on Wheels October 2: McDonald

Food Pantry: October 2: Kay Adams

BPUMC FOOD PANTRY

1st Wednesday each month

We are serving 200+ families a month.

We appreciate all donations!

Last Week's Record

September 29, 2013

Sunday School	302
Morning Worship	518
Evening Worship	25
Weekly Operating Needs	\$27,025.00
Operating Receipts	\$20,373.00
2013 Operating Budget	\$1,405,300.00
Needed to Date	\$1,054,977.00
Received to Date	\$989,121.98
Building Fund Receipts	\$3,496.67
Building Fund in 2013	\$209,780.16
New Members in 2013	37

LIVING OUR LEGACY

January 1, 2013—December 31, 2015

Amount Pledged	\$1,080,950.00
Received Last Week	\$3,386.67
Received to Date	\$248,234.30

**BLUFF PARK UNITED
METHODIST COLUMBARIUM**

Information Sheets in Narthex and Church Office

Wed. Night Servers—Oct. 2

Fellowship Hall—Canterbury Class
Carry Out Line Peggy and Mahala

October 2

Baked, fish, scalloped potatoes, baked beans, or baked chicken, baked potato bar, roll.

October 9

Beef tips over rice, peas, or baked chicken, baked potato bar, roll.

Sermon, October 6, 2013
8:45 and 11:00 Morning Worship
"Enough 1"
(Luke 15:11-16)
Mike Holly

6:00 Evening Worship
"Due Diligence"
(Luke 17:5-10)
Peter von Herrmann

VALET PARKING

Every Sunday morning! Drive to the covered entrance near the nursery and Fellowship Hall.

**Men's Freeplay Basketball
In the Gym**

Sunday & Thursday: 7:00pm (church members)
Wednesday: 7:00pm (community)



Monday 6:30
In the Gym
First Class Free